



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

Mark R. Herring
Attorney General

FILED IN CHARLESTON
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

JUL 17 A 10:10

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-786-2071
Fax 804-786-1991
Virginia Relay Services
800-828-1120
7-1-1

July 16, 2019

The Honorable Matthew J. Hayes
Clerk of Court
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of West Virginia
300 Virginia Street East, Room 3200
Charleston, WV 25301

Re: *In re: Blackjewel, L.L.C., et al.*,
Chapter 11 Case Number 19-30289

Dear Mr. Hayes:

Enclosed is a copy of a joint letter from me and Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear concerning the claims of the employees of Blackjewel, L.L.C. This letter was addressed and sent to the U.S. Trustee's office in Charleston. Also enclosed are the attachments to the letter. All of the attachments are documents that had already been filed by the court, the employees, and United Bank. Please lodge the joint letter and the attachments in the case.

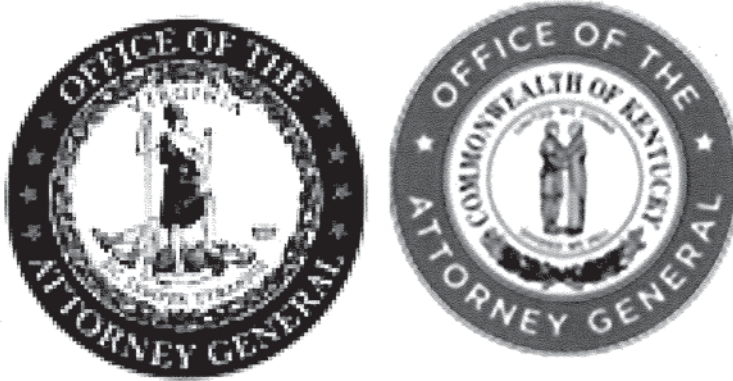
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mark R. Herring in black ink.
Mark R. Herring
Attorney General of Virginia

Enclosures

31



July 16, 2019

Debra A. Wertman
Assistant United States Trustee
Office of the United States Trustee
300 Virginia Street East, Room 2025
Charleston, WV 25301

Re: *In re: Blackjewel, L.L.C., et al.*,
Chapter 11 Case No. 19-30289
Case Filed: July 1, 2019 in the Southern District of West Virginia, Huntington Division

Dear Ms. Wertman:

We have been following the bankruptcy case of Blackjewel, L.L.C. (also referred to as the “Debtor”) with great concern as so many residents and businesses of our states have been financially devastated by the Debtor’s business failures and decisions. Most alarming are the dire circumstances that the Virginia and Kentucky employees (and their families) are facing as a result of their paychecks for prepetition wages having been dishonored by their own banks and financial institutions, either initially upon presentation or after being “clawed back” after being deposited. As a result of the bounced paychecks, many of the Virginia and Kentucky workers mistakenly overdrew their bank accounts. These workers and their families have been left without funds to meet mortgages, pay utility bills, and purchase even basic living necessities. The negative impact only begins with the workers and their families. The failure to pay workers’ wages has rippled through the regional economies, shortchanging area merchants, service providers, and other laborers.

Despite knowing for years of its precarious financial situation, the Debtor did nothing to prepare itself or its workforce for this month’s bankruptcy. Cash flow has been an issue ever since Blackjewel was formed in 2017.¹ Nevertheless, per media reports, Blackjewel leadership did not consult with bankruptcy lawyers or professional restructuring advisors until a few days

¹ <https://www.sightline.org/2019/07/09/blackjewel-bankruptcy-seven-bombshells/>

before the company declared bankruptcy.² Its failure to plan led Blackjewel to proceed toward bankruptcy in a haphazard fashion. Rather than enter Chapter 11 at the close of a fully-funded pay period to minimize worker disruption (which it could have done with a minimum of foresight), the Debtor issued a flurry of paychecks backed by insufficient funds days before declaring bankruptcy.³

Many miners have found themselves in a precarious state of purgatory and uncertainty: neither working, nor laid off. But regardless of their employment status, it is clear that many have not been paid the wages they have earned, creating financial chaos and a cascade of negative consequences. Their stories paint a picture of real, concrete, and ongoing harm to the financial well-being and stability of their families:

- A 33-year old miner said that his bank is requiring him to come up with \$2,100 to cover a bounced paycheck.⁴
- A 44-year old miner from Pennington Gap, Virginia has had his account balance drawn down to just \$30 after his \$2,200 paycheck was taken back. He estimates he is owed approximately one month of pay.⁵
- A 33-year old miner from Grundy, Virginia with four children says that he is \$500 overdrawn since he did not receive his paycheck.⁶
- A family of four from Keokee, Virginia is trying to make ends meet without a \$2,900 biweekly paycheck and has found themselves \$1,900 in the red.⁷
- A Virginia miner is preparing to relocate his family out of state for work after his paycheck bounced and he received no indication that future work would be available.⁸
- Kentucky families are suffering in similar ways.⁹

Upon hearing that the Debtor's employees' paychecks for prepetition earnings had not been honored by the employees' banks, the United States Bankruptcy Court, on its own motion, held an emergency hearing to address the problem. After the hearing was held, on July 5, 2019,

² *Id.*

³ https://www.heraldcourier.com/news/blackout-blackjewel-bankruptcy-leaves-workers-in-the-dark-paychecks-bouncing/article_236b7356-1d9d-51e9-a107-53add6069961.html.

⁴ <https://www.viriniamercury.com/2019/07/08/neither-unemployed-nor-allowed-to-work-virini-as-blackjewel-miners-look-for-relief/>.

⁵ https://www.heraldcourier.com/news/blackout-blackjewel-bankruptcy-leaves-workers-in-the-dark-paychecks-bouncing/article_236b7356-1d9d-51e9-a107-53add6069961.html.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ http://www.thecoalfieldprogress.com/news/blackjewel-miners-fate-remains-in-limbo/article_546758a0-a353-11e9-afb1-5fa8478788e3.html.

⁸ <https://wcyb.com/news/local/employees-of-bankrupt-mining-company-say-their-paychecks-bounced>.

⁹ <https://www.kentucky.com/news/state/kentucky/article232252047.html>.

the court entered a Minute Order requiring the parties, including the Debtor's bank, United Bank, to file a supplemental status report in the event that any employees of the Debtor had difficulties with their paychecks. Attached is a copy of the Minute Order. In response to the Minute Order, on July 11, 2019, United Bank filed a Supplemental Report of United Bank Regarding Payment Processing of Prepetition Wages to Employees.

United Bank fails to provide adequate assurances in the Supplemental Report that all employees' paychecks will be honored by their banks and financial institutions. First, the Supplemental Report refers to paychecks for only those employees who "are needed for Debtor's reduced operating capacity" The Report does not make representations or provide assurances that banks will honor the paychecks of all employees of the Debtor. Second, the report states that the banks that have been contacted by United Bank have only agreed to honor paychecks subject to holds of either 7 days or until checks clear. This does not provide any assurances that the checks will be honored, and does not provide any immediate financial relief for the employees. They need help now; not at some time in the future when their paychecks are declared "cleared." A copy of the Supplemental Report is attached.

Notwithstanding United Bank's Supplemental Report, within the last week, Debtor's employees from Kentucky and Virginia have filed letters with the court confirming that their paychecks have been dishonored and "clawed back," leaving them and their families in critical financial conditions. See the attached letters (pay advice information attached to the original letters has been redacted by our office for this transmission). Our Virginia and Kentucky families are in desperate need of their earned income now. In fact, as we can see from the attached letters, they desperately needed that income on the days when their paychecks ought to have been deposited.

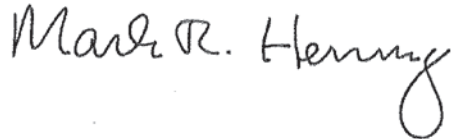
We are also not convinced that the assurances of payment of paychecks in United Bank's Supplemental Report, even with the payments conditioned upon holds by the recipient banks, covers all employees. Reporting has indicated that the Debtor is attempting to lure a subset of workers back to the company with the promise of making those workers whole on their back payments. Implicit in that strategy is that other workers who are owed back wages but not identified as part of the Debtor's plan going forward will not be made whole in the immediate term. This is untenable.

The Debtor is not exercising valid business judgment by picking and choosing which stiffed miners it will deign to make whole at this time. All workers who have labored for the company and are owed back wages should be made whole. And they should be made whole immediately. First, unlike most other creditors (secured and unsecured), these individuals face real personal hardship with every incremental delay, not just a discount associated with the time value of money. Second, requiring individual miners to navigate the intricacies of proof of claim forms when the Debtor has perfect knowledge regarding which wages are still outstanding creates an unnecessary procedural hurdle that can serve only to trap the unwary. Each claim is the same, and making 480 Virginians and 600 Kentuckians duplicate effort and risk a fatal error serves no legitimate purpose.

As the chief legal officers of the Commonwealths of Virginia and Kentucky, we urge an immediate resolution in the form of payment of all paychecks of all Virginia and Kentucky employees of Blackjewel, L.L.C. for their earned prepetition wages and commissions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Herring
Attorney General of Virginia



Andy Beshear
Attorney General of Kentucky

Enclosures



Frank W. Volk
 Frank W. Volk, Chief Judge
 United States Bankruptcy Court
 Southern District of West Virginia

Entered: July 5, 2019

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
 AT HUNTINGTON**

IN RE:	LEAD CASE NO. 3:19-bk-30289 <i>Joint Administration</i>
BLACKJEWEL, L.L.C., <i>et al.</i> ,	CHAPTER 11
Debtors.	JUDGE FRANK W. VOLK

MINUTE ORDER

On July 4, 2019, the Court learned that some portion of Debtors' employees were not receiving funds from their local financial institutions in exchange for their properly presented cashier checks drawn on United Bank ("United"). The Court, on its own motion, set and conducted an expedited hearing at 2:00 p.m. on July 4, 2019.

During the hearing, the Court learned that on Friday, June 28, 2019, just prior to filing, the Debtors attempted to complete their customary ACH wage transfers. Those transfers were unsuccessful. The Debtors then contacted United and requested issuance of cashier checks payable to the employees. The Debtors took the extraordinary step of then having those cashier checks transported by air to Wyoming. The volume of the cashier checks ostensibly caused certain financial institutions to dishonor them. During the July 4, 2019, hearing, the Debtors reported that they had been working with United to contact the dishonoring financial institutions. By the time of the hearing at 2:00 p.m., United had contacted and resolved the concerns of all but two of the dishonoring banks. The Court urged the parties to work diligently toward resolving the matter, setting a further hearing for today at 10:00 a.m.

During the hearing today, United explained that, due to the holiday and the time zone variance, it had not yet been able to contact the two aforementioned banks. The Court directed United to file a written status report by 1:00 p.m. today, at which time the Court would determine the necessity of a further hearing.

United timely filed its status report [dckt. 78]. It explained that it had been in contact with the two aforementioned banking institutions. It now appears that all relevant financial institutions are aware that the cashier checks are entitled to payment. The Court thus concludes a further hearing is unnecessary at this time.

In the event that any employees of the Debtors in either the western or eastern operations encounter difficulties respecting their paychecks, the parties are directed to bring the matter to the undersigned's attention forthwith by filing a supplemental status report.

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
HUNTINGTON DIVISION**

In re:

**BLACKJEWEL L.L.C.,
BLACKJEWEL HOLDINGS, L.L.C.,
REVELATION ENERGY, LLC,
REVELATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION,
BEVELATION ENERGY HOLDINGS, LLC,**

**Honorable Frank W. Volk
Case No.: 19-30289
Chapter 11**

Debtors in Possession

**SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT BY UNITED BANK REGARDING PAYMENT
PROCESSING OF PREPETITION WAGES TO EMPLOYEES**

COMES NOW, United Bank, a Virginia banking corporation ("United"), by and through its counsel Steptoe & Johnson PLLC. On July 5, 2019 at 12:59 p.m., United submitted that certain *Report by United Bank Regarding Payment Processing of Prepetition Wages to Employees* (ECF No. 78) (the "Payroll Report"). During a July 5, 2019 hearing at 10:00 a.m., this Court requested that United submit supplemental reports to this Court of material developments involving the status of United's processing of checks issued by the Debtors to employees that represent wages earned by such employees prior to the time that Debtors petitioned for bankruptcy protection pursuant chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"). In response to the inquiries by this Court, United provides the following supplemental report:

Western Employees

1. Of the 713 cashier's checks issued by United on behalf of the Debtors and for the benefit of various employees of coal mining operations in Wyoming (collectively, the "Western Employees"), only 13 of such cashier's checks have not been cashed or deposited, which represent \$14,159.98 of prepetition wages in the aggregate.

2. Upon information and belief, the Debtors, on July 8, 2019, initiated ACH transfer requests representing postpetition wages to certain Western Employees needed for the Debtors' reduced operating capacity, and those transfer requests were completed pursuant to instructions from the Debtors.

Eastern Employees

3. Upon information and belief, on July 8, 2019, the Debtors issued company checks representing pre- and post-petition wages to certain employees (the "Eastern Employees") needed for the Debtors' reduced operating capacity at their coal mining operations in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

4. Through various forms of communications with the Debtors, United was informed that various recipient banks of the employees would not accept company checks issued by the Debtors in fear that such checks would not be honored due to lack of adequate funds on deposit at the Debtors' issuing bank, United.

5. As an act of good faith and in an effort to assist affected Eastern Employees in receiving payment for prepetition services rendered to the Debtors and postpetition services to be rendered to the Debtors, United issued a letter to such recipient banks proposing an alternative. See Letter dated July 8, 2019, attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Recipient Bank Letter").

6. On July 9, 2019, Community Trust of Whitesburg, Kentucky communicated to United that it would accept company checks of the Debtors, subject to a hold until such checks clear.

7. On July 9, 2019, National Bank of Blacksburg, Virginia communicated to United that it would accept company checks of the Debtors, subject to a hold until such checks clear.

8. On July 9, 2019, Branch Banking & Trust Company of Richlands, Virginia communicated to United that it would accept company checks of the Debtors, subject to a 7-day hold.

9. On July 9, 2019, New Peoples Bank of Richlands, Virginia communicated to United that it would accept company checks of the Debtors, subject to a 7-day hold.

10. On or about July 9, 2019, Hyden Citizens Bank of Hyden, Kentucky communicated to United that it would accept company checks of the Debtors, subject to a hold until such checks clear.

Dated: July 11, 2019
Charleston, West Virginia

UNITED BANK

By Counsel

/s/Joseph G. Bunn

Joseph G. Bunn (WV Bar #11319)
J. Zachary Balasko (WVSB #12954)
Steptoe & Johnson
P. O. Box 1588
Charleston, WV 25326-1588
(304) 353-8000

Certificate of Service

I certify that on this day, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System, which will send notice of such filing to all CM/ECF participants who have appeared in this case.

/s/Joseph G. Bunn

EXHIBIT A

(RECIPIENT BANK LETTER)

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT



@ your service™

Recipient Banks of
Blackjewel L.L.C. Employees

Re: Blackjewel, L.L.C. Payroll Checks

To Whom It May Concern,

United Bank understands that checks presented by employees of Blackjewel L.L.C. are being rejected by your bank whether they are presented for deposit, for cash or otherwise in fear that the Debtors will not have sufficient funds to cover such amount. United empathizes with your bank's concerns. Nonetheless, United respectfully requests that your bank consider accepting such checks for deposit, subject to your bank confirming availability of funds through customary check-clearing processes. Without your bank's cooperation, the Debtors will have no means to pay their employees pre- or post-petition wages. In an effort to assist those employees in receiving their wages, United Bank is sending this letter.

On July 1, 2019, Blackjewel L.L.C. and some of its affiliates (collectively, the "Debtors") petitioned for bankruptcy protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code. On July 3, 2019, the United States Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of West Virginia (the "Court") granted the Debtors motion for an interim order authorizing debtors to obtain secured superpriority post-petition financing in an amount up to \$5 million (the "DIP Financing") pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 364(c)(1) and 364(d)(1). Contemporaneously with the Court's approval of DIP Financing, the Court also approved the Debtors' motion to pay pre-petition employee wages, salaries and other compensation and the Debtors' motion to maintain existing bank accounts.

The Debtors' maintain their accounts at United Bank. The Debtors' accounts are subject to a feature of United known as "reverse positive-pay" to ensure compliance with court orders. Under the "reverse positive-pay" architecture, the Debtors issues a check, initiates a wire transfer and some other banking transaction and, when a recipient bank requests funds to cover such transaction, the Debtors are informed of the request and are asked to approve or disapprove the same. This process could cause a delay in payment to the recipient bank or prevent a payment to the recipient bank, in each case, based upon the election of the Debtors.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LETTER IS IN NO WAY A GUARANTEE BY UNITED BANK THAT THE DEBTORS HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO COVER ANY ITEM PRESENTED TO YOUR BANK, OR THAT THE DEBTORS WILL APPROVE PAYMENT OF ANY ITEM PRESENTED TO YOUR BANK.

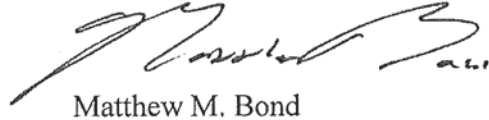
If you have any questions concerning this letter or the contents hereof, you may contact the following individuals:

Matthew M. Bond
500 Virginia Street East
Charleston, WV 25322
(304) 348-8423

Jacquie Stanley
990 Elmer Prince Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-581-6025

Thank you for your prompt attention regarding the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,



Matthew M. Bond

cc: D. Kesler
D. Brosious
D. Beckman
T. McRoberts, Esq.
J. Bunn, Esq.

From: windycoal@yahoo.com <windycoal@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 6:52:26 PM

To: Frank Volk

Subject: Blackjewel LLC Bankruptcy

Dear Honorable Frank Volk,

I am sending this email to plead on behalf of the employees of Blackjewel/Revelation mines. I have read that you said that paying the employees are of the utmost importance in this case. I wanted to thank you for that because we all feel as though no one cares that we are the ones suffering the most in this disaster. I am so glad that the employees in WY recieved cashier checks to cover their payroll from Mr. Hoops. I feel bad that they are fearing their families future because of these uncertainties, but the WV, VA, and KY miners checks were pulled out of their banks and all their bills that were written out on that payroll have bounced leaving us with thousands in the negative. They have signed up for unemployment but those unemployment payments are being direct deposited into checking accounts before knowing it and their banks have taken that money to cover the negative balances.

It was quoted that Mr. Hoops said to the WY community that no one is hurting more than him over this, well i have to respectfully disagree with him on that. Some of us that have things we can sell are doing so and others are borrowing money to buy groceries. I think it's a horrible shame working men have to sell the things they worked so hard to afford and to be so humiliated to beg others for money to feed their families.

They say they will pay the amounts owed when the miners are called back. I just don't think that is gonna happen. I also think it's not fair to the men. Some may be called back but others won't be. It's not fair for them to be able to pick and chose who they want back and who they don't. So the ones that get called back get their past pay but the ones who don't get called back will not get their pay. That information was put out to the workers by the bosses.

It's a mess but I feel confident you are gonna stand for the hard working men of WV, Va, and KY. We are praying for the best outcome possible.

Sincerely,
A miners wife,
Christina Burgess

FILED IN CHARLESTON
S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

2019 JUL 11 A 10:19

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

Donald R Bowling

40 Ratliff Road
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
10, July, 2019

Hon. Frank Volk
Robert C. Byrd Courthouse
300 Virginia Street, East, Room 3200
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Your Honor,

I'm writing you today in response to a request for information as it relates to the Blackjewel/Revelation bankruptcy filing, (case #19-30289).

Our family has been severely impacted by these events as not only my livelihood is now in question but also my son Andrew Bowling who also is employed with Black Jewel as a laboratory technician. We've not received any formal information as to our status of employment, (no official lay-off slips) Both our paychecks dated June 28th were clawed back, (see amount and attached) below. It also appears that our 401k company match has not been funded since May of this year.

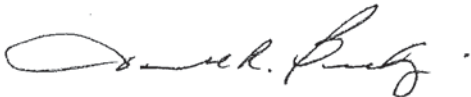
- Check #48453, net pay - \$3,417.59 (Donald R Bowling), BB&T

We are scrambling to get resolution, either back to work or move on before this crisis effects mortgage, car payments and general living expenses. My son's bank account is currently negative to the tune of \$1600 dollars and several accounts in jeopardy due to insufficient funds. I moved some of our savings over to cover my personal account.

Please see my contact information below for follow up or additional information.

- Donald R Bowling, donny.bowling@blackjewel.us (606) 794-1714

Sincerely,



Donald R Bowling

FILED IN CHARLESTON
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

JUL 10 2019

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

To: Judge Frank Volk

We are the miner's in the eastern section of Virginia. This letter is of some of the men how checks have bounced and owe banks their pay back because Blackjewel LLC had pulled the funds out for those checks. We now have to worry how to feed our families and pay our bills and the Banks are coming after us men for cashing our paydays like we normally do. We have till Friday July 12th, 2019 to come up with the money are they press felony charges on us men. We worked our butts off for this company and they don't care about the men what so ever. We have reached out to you for your help and would great appreciate it if you could help us get our pay (what we are owed). In this letter you find all names of the miner's how much they are owed, what bank they owe, how it has affected them and their families. Were you can contact each of them. We just really need your help with these. Our governor and labor dept. can't help us. We are really depending on you now to help us miner's out. Blackjewel has done us miners really terrible with our pay and has shown us there is no hope for us on our payday's to be fixed. We have called every one of them to help us fix our checks where they bounce and they just show no interested or help with it.

Thank you so much for taking your time and patience,

The miner's at D17 Blackjewel LLC

This list of names, address, bank how it affected them & what the checks amount's was for does not include what the men are owed for the next payday on July 12th 2019 or their 401K or HSA cards for the last three months the company didn't put in to them (money). The men are wanting what the company owe's them for the bounced check's from June 28th & July 12th we can wait a little bit on the July 12th checks but we can not wait for the bounced checks to be fixed. We hope you can help us fix this because the company has shown no interest in doing so.

Thank you

Lebonis

+
Joseph Wolbrunson
+ all the ...

Date:	Name + address	Where cashed at:	owed:
7/9/2019	Josiah A. Williamson	Tru. Point	# 2381. <u>77</u>
Phone -	276-991-0308 4113 Lynn Springs Rd. Swords Creek Va 24649	Sign: Josiah A. Williamson	
7/9/2019	Wayne Vance		# 2224. <u>73</u>
Phone -	276-991-1007 175 Truel brown rd. Swords Creek Va 24649	Sign: Wayne Vance	
7/9/2019	Bryson Vance		# 1588. <u>85</u>
Phone -	276-991-1007 175 Truel Brown Rd. Swords Creek Va 24649	Sign: Bryson Vance	
7/9/2019	Clinton L. Lester Jr.	Summit Bank	# 4468. <u>00</u> ^{ap} of July
Phone -	304-678-2993 1091 Pineville WV 24874	Sign: Clinton L. Lester Jr.	
7/9/2019	Rufus Jewell	First Sential	# 2850. <u>00</u>
phone -	276-598-4126 51571 Bridge Stone Dr. Raven Va 24639	Sign: Rufus Jewell	

Date:		Name & address	BANK ^{where} of cashed ^{owed:}
Phone - 304/923-0168	7/9/2019	Richard Bradley Hall P.O. box 1612 Pineville WV, 24874	Goodson's Supermarket \$1,885.93 Signature: Richard Bradley Hall
	7-9-2019	John Edward Stacy Got disconnected because of pay 1201 Bend of Slate Circle Grundy VA 24614	New Peoples Bank \$2,333 sign: John E Stacy
Phone - 276/971-7763	7/9/2019	Jeffery D. Strouth P.O. box 416 Richlands Va 24641	New Peoples Bank \$2,942.79 Sign: Jeffery D. Strouth
	7/9/2019	Kenny V. Deel Jr. Po box 673 Vansant Va 24656	Tru Point \$2,352.19 Sign: K. Deel
Phone - 276-329-8411	7/9/2019	Jacob N. Shelton P.O. box 243 Poundingmill Va 24637	\$2,300.00 Sign: Jacob N. Shelton
	Phone - 276-202-3199	Wilbur J. Cole Jr. 10833 New Concord Rd Honnaker, Va. 24260	Wilbur J. Cole Jr. 2500.00

Go to www.AtYourBusiness.com for more free business forms

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Document Page 9 of 10
How its affected the miners:

It has hurt me + my family, my daughter will not get to play sports now cause we can't afford it I feel like I am losing everything + my life is falling apart.

John E. Stacy

It has hurt me in paying my bills, we all are only a few pay days away from losing everything so it, is only going to get worse

Jeff S. Smith

We all have been hurt by the actions of Blackjewel. All bills are over due ~~for~~ now sence the payroll check was not any good. I have eight children that rely on me to keep the bills payed and lights on.

Kerry V. Deal

No money, selling everything I have to make it. No gas even if they called me back to work, all I want is what is owed that I already worked for.

Paul Stettin

Account overdrawed. had to transfer money to cover checks I had already wrote on account.

No Money having bills

With J. H. J.

Still coming in and no one helping us so we need help!

David Stettin

Owe money for bills, have to pick up check for amount of Payroll it has been very stressful try to figure out how to pay bills, buy food, gas to look for another job, or go back to work if they called. Got kids to feed, school clothes, & supplies. We need help & what we are owed.

Josiah Williamson

FILED IN CHARLESTON
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

JUL 11 2019

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIADear,
Mr. Frank Volk

I work for Blackjewel D2 in Leslie County, Kentucky. On June 28, 2019 me and my family had planned a vacation in Florida. I cashed my payday with my local bank like I always do. We leave out for what I thought was going to be fun and relaxing. I was wrong!

On July 1st, 2019 I got a call from a co-worker telling me that they had shut the mine down. No warning or nothing. On July 2nd, 2019 found out that our checks that were cashed on June 28, 2019 had bounced. Now I not only am I behind my bills, I owe the bank over \$3,000 because of the bad check.

This has caused my family a hardship. We owe two vehicle payments, a mortgage, and regular monthly payments. I have one son in college and two in middle school. Not to mention the

medical bills. My wife is a stroke
survivor and I have high blood
pressure problems. This has took a
physical and mental toll on us.

This has quickly become a night-
mare. I only want that is owed to
me. Thank you for your time.

David Harris

FILED IN CHARLESTON
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

JUL 11 2019

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

Jeffrey Helbert

116 Owl Court

Richlands, VA 24641

276-971-3921

Dear Frank Volk,

I am Jeff Helbert from Richlands, VA. I have been an employee of Blackjewel LLC since April 2016. On Monday, July 1, 2019 I was told no work until further notice. On Wednesday, July 3, 2019 I found out that the payroll check that I had deposited on June 28, 2019 from Blackjewell had been withdrawn from my account. I had paid bills from this account so this left my account negative \$2070+. This has severely impacted my family because I have two kids to support. One of those being a special needs daughter. Also I had worked another week and one day into the next with the rest supposed to be holiday and vacation days, that was supposed to be paid this Friday, July 12, 2019. Which I'm sure that I won't be receiving this check either. This will make a total of a full month that I will not receive a payroll check. Even if we get back to work it will be another month before I receive any pay. How am I supposed to support my family when the hours that I work are not being paid to me? My creditors are calling wanting to know where their money is and all I have to my name is \$15. This has been one of the most stressful times for me and my family. I just want to know when I can plan on getting my finances back in order. I do NOT operate like this!!! It is shameful to me and my family that we can't pay our bills and buy groceries for us to eat!

Sincerely,



Jeff Helbert and Family

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FILED IN CHARLESTON
U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

Case # 19-30289

JUL 11 2019

July 9th 2019

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

My name is Larry Wayne Neff Jr.

I have been a coal miner for almost 15 years. I have 2 beautiful children age 13 and age 9. I work for Black Jewel LLC Coal Company. On June 28th 2019 I deposited my check into the bank. I paid some bills and left the rest of my check in the bank.

My wife and I ~~were~~ was saving up for our down payment on our home. We were suppose to close on Friday July 12th 2019. On Wednesday July 3rd I recieved a phone call from another employee of black Jewel telling me our checks was took back away

from us because they were no good. My wife went to the bank to find out what was going on and she was told the check we deposited was no good and that money wasn't in our account. My check was \$2212.00.

I am enclosing a copy that we recieved from the bank telling us the check was from a frozen / Blocked account.

It has now been almost 4 weeks since

I have recieved any checks from where

I have worked. I worked 3 weeks

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and 1 day with no pay at all. My HSA account is behind also because no money has been put there either. This whole situation has brought alot of hurt and anger to many families in our community that worked for Black Jewel. It is bad enough when you have a family and lose your job but to also find out that your check was took back from you and that you won't be recieving your check owed to you on July 12th either is just heart breaking. 9 days before close on our home we was hit with all this and because of this and my check being took back I am 2200 short of my down payment on my home. We have rented for years and was finally buying our own home and this happens. My wife, children, and I have been devastated and I feel like I deserve what is right fully mine. No one wants to work for free or be given a check that's gonna bounce and come back on you.

All of us miners would appreciate anything you could do to help us get what we deserve. No one should be done the way that we have been done. This has brought tears and heartache in many ways.

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Lots of worrying and sleepless nights
trying to figure it all out. With no answers.

Worrying about bills, food, necessities and
insurance for our children. We would

really appreciate any and all help we

could get to get what belongs to

all of us miners. Thank you for your
time & support.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

Michael A. Deel
1679 Earls Branch Rd.
Cedar Bluff, VA 24609

July 9, 2019

Frank Volk
Robert C. Byrd Courthouse
300 Virginia St. East
Room 3200
Charleston, WV 25301

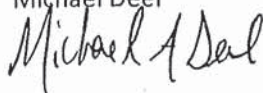
RE: Revelation/Blackjewel

To Whom it May Concern:

I am/was an employee of Blackjewel as of July 1, 2019. After receiving the news of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy, I honestly didn't know what to think. I was told by my boss to not come in to work the rest of the week and be back on Monday (July 8), but as the week went on matters got worse and those instructions changed. Thankfully, on Wednesday, July 3, a co-worker gave me a heads up that payroll checks from the past Friday were bouncing. At that time, my wife and I did what we could to put enough money into our account so that all the bills that had just been written out and mailed would not cause us even more trouble by overdrafting our account when they cleared our bank. Sure enough, Friday morning (July 5) when we checked our account my entire payroll check was taken out of our account and returned (\$2042.33).

We are working class people and basically live and depend on that regular payday. This has caused my family much stress not only not having that paycheck but now being owed for yet another week of work (for working the week after payday June 24-July 1) which was supposed to come to me this Friday (July 12), and, of course, the creditors do not care about my reasons for not having money to pay them. Is there help for us???

Concerned,
Michael Deel



19-30289
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SOUTHERN DISTRICT
WEST VIRGINIA

Dear honorable Judge Frank Volk,

My name is Steven Weaver. I depend on my Coal mining job to survive. I've been in the Coal industry about 16 years. I've raised my two kids this way. One is 15 and the other is 13.

On June 28th I received my payroll check for my work for two weeks. That amount was \$2,175.75. I took my check to the bank as we normally do each payday to deposit and pay bills. My wife paid bills on Friday and Monday July 1st 2019. On July 3rd my wife went to the bank to get money and was informed our account was in the negative. It was humiliating to her because it appeared she deposited a bad check. Then the bills that were paid started being rejected. Two credit cards were sent non sufficient funds and she had to make other arrangements on those. Once all was said and done we had \$198 in overdraft fees to the bank. The bank agreed to remove \$165 of those.

I also had a return item fee of \$15.99 on the bad payroll check. I've attached proof of these statements from my bank. My account as it stands is \$1,417.22 in the negative. I have 60 days to repay my bank. Not only has this caused many financial burdens to my family we have had emotional burdens as well. I recently lost my mother due to massive stroke and this has caused a lot of other burdens added to that. My family has tried to

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help as much as they can but were I
come from we live week to week and supply
our families needs. We have had to worry
about how we will pay bills such as
Electric, Insurance, water bill, car payments,
and credit card payments. We have worked
hard to repair our credit to have all
that thrown away like this. We have lost
sleep barely can eat due to worrying about
our future and providing for our kids.
We had to cancel our vacation and tell our
kids we can't go this year. My wife has had
to spend the last several days on her
lunch breaks trying to fix all this. This has
been an emotional roller coaster. I beg you
to please rule for Mr. Hoops to pay these miners & families what
they worked so hard for, and had taken away.
Also my health savings account hasn't had
the correct deposits in it as well. I've been
employed with Revaluation / Black Jewel for
four years, when James River Coal sold out.

Thanks for any help you provide for me
and my family

Steven Weaver

After writing this letter last night I woke up this morning to
a notification that I can't draw unemployment as well. Says pending
employer protest. How can we pay anything with no income
or buy food and supplies we need.